29th November 1928]

A.—As the hon. Member is aware, Railways is a 'Central' subject.

(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) A survey of a line from Salem to Porto Novo *via* Chinna Salem and Vriddhachalam appears to have been made in 1885-86, but the proposal did not materialize. The question of constructing a line from Vriddhachalam to Cuddalore was raised by the District Board of South Arcot in 1904 in connexion with a proposal made by Messrs Parry & Co. to construct a light railway between the two places. Whether Porto Novo would offer the same advantages as a terminus as Cuddalore was considered by the District Board and it finally selected Cuddalore. The Cuddalore Landing and Shipping Fees Committee, the Port Officer, Cuddalore, and the South Indian Railway authorities also favoured Cuddalore—the main reasons being that Cuddalore Port offers greater facilities for trade and that the Cuddalore-Vriddhachalam line is preferable from an engineering point of view.

(*d*) The Government are aware that a good deal of the ground-nut crop of Vriddhachalam will probably be sent by rail to Cuddalore instead of, as in the past, by road to Porto Novo.

(*e*) Does not arise.

Betting

Licence fees for bucket shops in the Madras City.

* 871 *Q.*—Mr. C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the licence fees, if any, collected by the Commissioner of Police, Madras City, permitting the running of bucket shops; and

(*b*) whether Government propose to introduce in the Council the Bill for the suppression of bucket shops alias sports clubs at its next sittings, and, if not, the reasons for the delay?

A.—(*a*) No such licence fee is collected by the Commissioner of Police.

(*b*) The Bill had to be referred to various officers of Government. Their replies have been received and examined by Government. It has been re-drafted and is under scrutiny. After the Government of India's sanction is obtained, it will be introduced in the Council.

Mr. C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar:—"May I know if any kind of fee or tax is collected?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"No, Sir."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar:—"Will the Government be pleased to expedite the introduction of the Bill?"

The hon Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"I shall do so, Sir."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao:—"May I know in what stage the Bill is—whether it is re-drafted, whether any scrutiny has taken place or whether it has been sent to the Government of India for sanction?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur:—"The Bill is now being examined by the administrative department."

[29th November 1928

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—" May I know whether it is not desirable that these places should be licensed as places of public resort by the police in view of the fact that riots and disturbances very often take place owing to non-payment or delayed payment of money and very often the police have to be called in ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :— " Notice, Sir."

Criminal Tribes

Management and location of criminal settlements in Andhra districts.

* 872-A Q.—The Zamindar of Gollapalli : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many criminal settlements are maintained by the Government in the Andhra country and where they are located ;

(b) the amount spent on each settlement in each year ;

(c) to whom the settlements are entrusted for management ;

(d) what is the amount sanctioned for supervising the charges of each settlement ; and

(e) the date when each centre was established ?

A.—(a) There are four criminal tribes settlements in Telugu districts maintained by Government and they are located in the following places :—

(1) Sitanagaram—Guntur district.
(2) Stuartpuram— do.
(3) Kavali, including Allur and Bitragunta—Nellore district.
(4) Siddhapuram—Kurnool district.

(b) The figures of expenditure are given in the Annual Civil Budget Estimates. The figures for the last three years are—

	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
Sitanagaram ...	33,561	19,901	19,868
Stuartpuram ...	22,847	23,748	24,732
Kavali ...	89,998	86,694	96,020
Siddhapuram ...	3,187 [a]	4,670 [a]	5,591 [a]

[a] Excludes pay of manager.

(c) The first two settlements Sitanagaram and Stuartpuram are under the management of the Salvation Army, the Kavali settlement is under the management of the American Baptist Mission and the Siddhapuram settlement is under Government management.

(d) The supervision charges fixed for the first three settlements are—

Sitanagaram	Rs. 7,450
Stuartpuram	" 7,910
Kavali	From Rs. 30,620 to Rs. 36,727 (maximum).

The Siddhapuram settlement being under Government management, no specific supervision charge has been fixed for it. The current year's budget provision for pay of establishments,